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SHYNESS IS SERIOUS.

MEDICAL EXPERTS SAY IT IS A SYMPTOM OF MELANCHOLIA.

It Takes Various Forms, but Is Invariably a Forerunner of Dementia—A Disease That Should Be Carefully Treated In Time—Affects Men as Well as Women.

At last it has been discovered that the reason the girl who seems exceedingly shy acts in the fashion she does is that she is demented.

This is the result of extensive investigation by insanity experts on both sides of the water. Exceptional bashfulness, as it is called, is really shyness. It is a morbid condition of the mind, a certain sort of dementia.

Often is the expression heard that a person is painfully shy. Yet in such an instance no doubt has been raised as to the mental condition of the object of the remark. Nevertheless, it is far more than probable that the individual referred to was suffering from insanity just as much if not more, than many persons who are living out a tortured existence within the walls of a madhouse.

It is a well known fact that one of the most notable symptoms of insanity is that which causes the person afflicted to shun the company of others. Loneliness is an incentive to insanity. Confinement in a solitary cell in a prison often breeds madness. It is altogether an unnatural mental condition which impels a person to avoid the society of humanity. No one whose condition is normal ever consents to such an existence.

Just how the insanity expert looks at shyness is shown by the following statement, made by Dr. G. W. Kunz of New York, whose wide experience makes his opinion well worth considering:

"Shyness is as much a disease as scarlet fever. It is recognized as a symptom of dementia or melancholia, just as an extremely strong willed person, or one who is what is termed unusually self assertive, is regarded by physicians as a possible subject for acute paresis.

"This shyness takes various forms, such as a sudden feeling of faintness and weakness on looking down from any extreme height. It is present when a woman persists in looking under the bed before retiring, although she knows full well that there is no man there. I know of one case of a woman who, when she turns out the gas, invariably lights a match to see if she has turned it completely off, and nine times out of ten she lights another match to see if she threw the first match into the coal scuttle or fireplace. That is another form of what may be termed shyness.

"This shyness is due to a variety of causes. It is very often the case that a system which is run down leads to this condition of mind. The continual thinking upon any subject, or what is termed brooding over a certain thing, leads to this. If not checked in time, melancholia results.

"This shyness is as common to men as to women. Some men seem embarrassed and ill at ease when in the presence of women, while, on the other hand, it is often noticed that the presence of gentlemen makes some women very ill at ease, only, in justice to the sex, it must be stated that this very rarely happens.

"There are many reasons for these facts, but the most common one is ill health. Should a person so troubled go to a physician, he or she would be regarded as possessing symptoms indicating a lack of will power and approaching insanity in some form. There are waves of morbid shyness, just as there are waves of insanity. There are waves of certain kinds of suicide, resulting from insanity. There are waves of bridge jumping, killing with razors or knives, shooting and death by poison.

"Many suicides are due to temporary insanity, brought on by a variety of causes. One of the first symptoms is shyness. Persons afflicted with this shyness never take up any of the sciences or professions or become students. They lack the will power necessary to do so. Where the normal mind of man overcomes difficulties and troubles when they come, the shy, retiring man seeks relief in suicide."

Dr. Henry Campbell, who is the physician in charge of the Northwest London hospital, says that morbid shyness is, like other mental disorders, an exaggeration of an unnatural physical state. It is among women, he declares, that this symptom of mental disorder is most often seen. Lacking the physical strength of man in most instances, they are unable to withstand the depression that sometimes seizes them. That depression gives birth to a desire to be unobserved. Here is the beginning of the fit of shyness which results in unbalancing the mind and creating the idea that the very sight of others is an affliction to be avoided.

Several New York doctors who discussed the question at length said that they had noticed particularly among young women whom they had been called upon to see that those who had exhibited the greatest embarrassment in the presence of young men were lacking in that mental equipoise necessary to the normal brain. Modesty is one thing, they said, shyness quite another. The one causes the young woman to refrain from action that would bring upon her just criticism. The other is simply impelled to a course of action for which there is neither rhyme nor reason, and one that only results in general discomfort.—New York Journal.

About the Same.

"By the way, where is the major nowadays?" asked the mutual friend.

"He is in an institution for the treatment of the feeble minded," said the colonel, with a trace of acrimony in his voice.

"You don't say!"

"Well, suh, they don't call the place by that name, suh. But you can see for yo'self that it amounts to the same thing. It is a water cure establishment, suh."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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THE BLOODHOUND.

Interesting Facts About One of the Most Interesting of Dogs.

For stateliness of appearance no breed of dog is comparable to the bloodhound, while the stories attending its unerring pursuit of its quarry have furnished the novelist with material of the most exciting character. But it is a fiction to associate the bloodhound with ferocity. He never worries or mangles what he tracks down. His vocation is to find, and to find only, when engaged in pursuit of man or of wounded deer.

The bloodhound has figured in history from time immemorial, and no breed of dog has preserved its characteristic points so persistently. The high pointed cranium, the long, pendulous ears, the ample dewlap, the wrinkled forehead, the overhanging flews and even the red haw, or third eyelid, commonly called the sealing wax, may be traced, more or less, in the Talbot hound, the basset, the dachshund and in the Swedish beagle, which last is a miniature bloodhound, though of lighter build. The Count le Conteulx de Cantelen, in his work "Les Races des Chiens Courans Francais," harks back to the famous St. Hubert hounds, black and white, as the recognized progenitors of the breed.

The present writer was particularly impressed by the strong bloodhound type which characterized the packs of French hounds from various provinces exhibited at the international show in Paris in 1878. However, it will be more interesting to leave speculative discussion and come to the regions of fact. In borderland history bloodhounds were compulsorily maintained by each hamlet for tracking the moss troopers after their raids, and till comparatively lately the rural constabulary in England employed bloodhounds to trace sheep and poultry stealers. In Bedale a police superintendent not long ago had a celebrated local named Veltman, which could find his master wherever he might be and at any hour of the night. And this reference suggests the inverse remark that the bloodhound, even as a pup, will pick up the trail of a stranger quite easily and, perhaps, more eagerly than that of his master.

Another interesting fact is that the bloodhound, when alone, hunts mute, but when hunting in a pack he makes music of most delightful melody. His tracking instinct is so keen that he hunts the "clean shoe" as well, if not better, than when the foot of the fugitive has been purposely fouled, and it is a pretty sight to watch a trained hound following his quarry over a fence if the pursuer has gone that way, or under the rails if such has been his course. The training of bloodhounds has not been very persistently followed of late years, but there have been several important trials at Boxmoor, and at the Alexandra palace also. It is noteworthy to remark that the trial at Boxmoor came off when deep snow was on the ground, and that while snow was actually falling the hounds laid on were equally persistent in tracking the quarry. A well trained bloodhound will follow for five miles even after six hours have elapsed since the fugitive started, and although many other trails have crossed the track. But he is frequently at fault over stone flags. It was for this reason that the pursuit of Jack the Ripper by bloodhounds, at one time mooted, was, after a trial, discarded. It was the later Mr. J. Bell's Countess which served as a model to Landseer for his bloodhound in "Dignity and Impudence," and also for his "Sleeping Bloodhound," while the late Sir John Millais' Cromwell figured in more than one of that artist's pictures. Other fine hounds have been Lauth XI, Hector II and Danger. The bloodhound's aristocratic appearance, his invariable good temper and his watchfulness commend him to social notice, while the vulgar idea regarding his ferocity renders him an invaluable companion for ladies and children against the annoyances incidental to the genus tramp.—Sketch.

Reindeer For Alaska.

In northern and central Alaska there are at a moderate estimate 400,000 square miles unadapted to agriculture and cattle grazing, but covered with tundra, a long, fibrous white moss (Cladonia rangiferina), which is the natural food of the reindeer. This area would be capable of supporting 9,000,000 head of deer and would make a useless, barren waste conducive to the wealth and prosperity of the United States. The only way to utilize this tundra moss and convert it into food and clothing for men is by its transformation into deer meat and furs. Besides the fact that reindeer meat is considered a great delicacy and that Russia exports it frozen in carloads to Germany and that the Norwegian Preserving company uses large quantities of it for canning, the skins when tanned are soft and of a beautiful yellow color and have a ready sale with the manufacturers of military pantaloons, gloves, bookbindings and furniture covers. The hair also is in demand for filling life saving apparatus (buoys, etc.), as it possesses a wonderful degree of buoyancy, while the best existing glue is made from reindeer horns.—The Church at Home and Abroad.

Nansen Soured?

Unpleasant gossip about Dr. Nansen is circulating in Stockholm. It is said that his experiences in the north have ruined his temper, soured his disposition and turned him into a moody misanthrope, whose only desire is for solitude. According to these stories, he left the Fram and made his perilous journey on foot over the drifting ice simply to escape the society of his shipmates. This theory has been pushed so far as to make it account for the fact that Mrs. Nansen, instead of living at home with her husband, is making a concert tour of Sweden.

They All Do.

Dombey—When your wife gets angry, won't she speak to you?

Captain Cuttle—She won't do anything else.—Hartford Times.

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CONSUMPTION.

The Conditions Which Invite a Foothold of This Dread Disease.

The germs of this disease cannot obtain a foothold until the resistive powers of the tissues have been reduced. There must be not only the seed, but the soil. This impaired power of resistance may be the result of heredity, and this influence in the causation of disease is seldom shown to better advantage than in the history of consumption. There have been instances in which a single case introduced into a long and sound ancestry has vitiated the stock forever.

How unfortunate that such matters are so little considered in marrying and giving in marriage! It is not that the disease is inherited, but the vulnerable tissues, the feeble resistive powers, render the offspring an easy prey to the ubiquitous bacillus. This weakness often shows itself by a tendency to become ill from slight causes, a sickliness not by any means to be confounded with merely a lack of robustness or strength. One organ or part of the body, frequently the mucous membrane, is usually more prone to become affected, and the beginning of the disease can often be traced to an attack of some slight ailment.

Not only the children of consumptive parents may show these characteristics, but also those of parents generally enfeebled, or whose ages are widely separated, or who are closely related by blood, or of a mother who has previously borne a number in quick succession. Even when heredity is sound the same condition is sometimes induced by coddling, by improper feeding, by attacks of acute disease or by want and distress. In growing children a bad carriage of body may act injuriously by contracting and deforming the chest. The stooped position which boys sometimes assume in bicycle riding should be discouraged for this reason.—William L. Russell, M. D., in Popular Science Monthly.

THE LONGFELLOW STATUE.

A Fitting Memorial of the Poet at Portland, His Birthplace.

One of the best instances of what the statue of any great man should be—at any rate, in the respect of its situation, its perspective with regard to other memorials and the local estimation in which it is held—is the statue of Longfellow at Portland, by Mr. Franklin Simmons. It is a dignified seated figure of the poet in bronze, occupying a conspicuous site in the best part of the town, in the middle of a square which is now known as Longfellow square. The statue was raised a few years ago by a fund solicited through a wide field, but chiefly obtained, I believe, in Portland. The sculptor was chosen through that curious local spirit which has affected unfavorably many of our architectural and other monuments. He was avowedly selected because he was a "Maine man," though he had never seen the poet. However, the result in this case seems to have been happy. The statue has much beauty, and the likeness is said to be excellent.

This statue stands in the poet's native town, as is entirely proper. It may appeal every day to the eyes of thousands of young people, born very much as he was born, who should see in it the suggestion of possibility for them. Poetically it makes the stranger fancy the genius or spirit of the man still lingering among the scenes of his youth, and it symbolizes the satisfaction which every man feels to have his name remembered in his native town.—J. E. Chamberlin in Atlantic.

The South Carolinian.

The South Carolinian has always arrogated to himself the name Carolinian, and he has never been on very familiar terms with his northern neighbor. His feeling for his southern neighbor, the Georgian, is also one of mere tolerance, for the latter has long been called the southern Yankee and fairly deserves the appellation. He has much of the shrewdness and push that mark the typical "down easter," and he has a considerable share of that worthy's moral earnestness. In addition he has a good deal of the Virginian's geniality and love of comfort, of the North Carolinian's unpretending democracy and of the South Carolinian's tendency to exhibitions of fiery temper.

But over and above everything else he has an honest and hearty and not unfounded pride in Georgia, and a sort of Masonic affiliation with every person, animal, institution, custom—in short, thing—that can be called Georgian. He may not always stand for culture, but he does always stand for patriotism, state and national. He loves success, strength, straightforwardness and the solid virtues generally—neither is he averse to the showy ones—but above all he loves virtue in action. Though possessed of a strong, clear intellect, he is more particularly a man of five senses, of which he makes as good use as he can. He may not always taste the sweetness or see the light of the highest civilization, but he has a good healthy appetite for life.—W. P. Trent in Atlantic.

General Grant's Two Tunes.

A drum corps in passing caught sight of the general and at once struck up a then popular negro camp meeting air. Every one began to laugh, and Rawlins cried, "Good for the drummers!" "What's the fun?" inquired the general. "Why," was the reply, "they are playing 'Ain't I glad to get out ob de wilderness!'" The general smiled at the ready wit of the musicians and said: "Well, with me a musical joke always requires explanation. I know only two tunes—one is 'Yankee Doodle,' and the other isn't."—General Horace Porter in Century.

The southern entrance of the Red sea is commanded by the fortress of Aden and the fort on the little island of Perim, in the strait of Babel-Mandeb, the guns of the latter completely covering the narrow channel and the fortress dominating the entrance to the sea.

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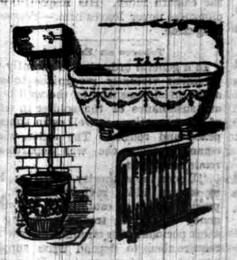

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